

trustees will see in this piece of legislation a recognition and a reward for their past meritorious services and a legislative commandment to their neighbours to follow their noble example and do likewise, that the souls of the departed donors may rest in peace in the satisfaction that their beneficence is maintained and perpetuated, that future benefactors might feel prompted and encouraged to follow in the wake of the illustrious dead and help their lesser countrymen, in the firm confidence that trusts once created will remain intact and cared for, for all time to come, and that thus the general prosperity of the nation might develop and increase in every way."

Mr. Nagam Aiya then proposed that the discussion of the principle of the Bill be postponed to the next meeting.

The motion was put and agreed to.

VAKILS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ramier.—I beg to move the following verbal amendments in the Bill, viz., in section 24 to substitute 'to' for 'by' in line 2, in section 30 to substitute 'consequent on' for 'for' in line 8, and in section 31, to insert 'fining' between 'transferring' and 'suspending' in line 7. These amendments are merely corrections in drafting.

Seconded by Mr. Kochukrishna Marar.

Carried.

Mr. Ramier.—I beg to move that the Bill as amended be passed and that it come into force on the 1st Chingom 1076.

Seconded by Mr. Prince.

The motion was put and agreed to.

TOBACCO REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I beg to move that the Select Committee's Report on the Bill to amend the Tobacco Regulation which was presented at the last meeting of the Council be taken up for consideration.

The Bill contains two important provisions—one enabling Government to declare that in any local area the sale of tobacco shall be carried on only under a license, and the other empowering certain classes of officers to search without a warrant from a Magistrate, buildings suspected to contain contraband tobacco, to seize the same if found, and to arrest the persons concerned in the keeping or sale of such article.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Bill which deal with the first of the above provisions have been adopted by the Select Committee with very slight modification. My friend, Mr. Ramier, while signing the report, has recorded a note expressing his apprehensions as to the tendency of this provision. I am quite at one with Mr. Ramier in his view generally of the possible inconvenience and hardship which the rigorous enforcement of a system of license, in respect of an article of general consumption, would cause to the trader as well as the consumer. But it is not intended to introduce the system generally or in any considerable area. It will be confined to a very limited area—possibly to a few villages in the frontier taluks. It may perhaps be said that, with the utmost respect to and confidence in Government, the wisdom of inserting in the law a provision which, if used without proper judgment, may prove injurious to the public, in the hope that it is not likely to be so used, is questionable. My answer is that, in the present case, the interests of Government—not the interests in the broad sense which should always harmonise with the interests of the people—but the financial interests of Government for the protection of which alone the provision in question is intended, would dictate a policy of non-interference, or at all events, of minimum possible interference; for, other things being equal, consumption would vary directly with freedom of trade, and the license